

OBVIATING RENEWALS OF OATHS OF OFFICE

NOVEMBER 1 (legislative day, OCTOBER 25), 1943.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. VAN NUYS, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 1206]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1206) to amend an act entitled "An act to dispense with unnecessary renewals of oaths of office by civilian employees of the executive departments and independent establishments," approved August 14, 1937, having considered the same, report the bill favorably to the Senate with the recommendation that the bill do pass.

The purpose of the bill is to make applicable to employees of the government of the District of Columbia a provision of law providing that civilian employees of the executive departments and independent establishments of the United States shall not be required to renew their oaths of office upon change of status so long as their services are continuous in the department or independent establishment in which employed.

The following letters, from the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia and R. W. Holt, chief accountant of the public schools of the District of Columbia, recommend the measure:

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, November 13, 1942.

Hon. SAM RAYBURN,
Speaker, United States House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C.

MY DEAR MR. RAYBURN: The Commissioners of the District of Columbia have the honor to submit a draft of a bill to amend an act entitled "An act to dispense with unnecessary renewals of oaths of office by civilian employees of the executive departments and independent establishments," approved August 14, 1937.

The act of August 14, 1937 (50 Stat. 640), provides that civilian employees of the executive departments and independent establishments of the United States shall not be required to renew their oaths of office upon change of status so long as their services are continuous in the department or independent establishment in which employed. The purpose of the proposed bill is to make this provision applicable to employees of the Government of the District of Columbia.

Renewal of oath of office is generally unnecessary and serves no useful purpose. A considerable and ever-increasing amount of detail and paper work in connection

with changes in grade or employment could be saved if the District government were authorized to dispense with such renewals.

As the act of August 14, 1937, further provides that renewal of oath of office may be required when "in the opinion of the head of the department or independent establishment the public interests require such renewals," the privilege of requiring a renewal of oath would be retained by the Commissioners in instances where a useful purpose would be served.

For the foregoing reasons the Commissioners urge enactment of the proposed legislation.

The proposed draft was submitted to the Bureau of the Budget and returned to the Commissioners with the advice that there is no objection on the part of that office to the presentation of the bill to Congress.

Respectfully,

(Signed) JOHN RUSSELL YOUNG,
President, Board of Commissioners.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, D. C., September 25, 1943.

HON. FREDERICK VAN NUYS,
*Chairman, Judiciary Committee,
United States Senate, Washington, D. C.*

MY DEAR SENATOR VAN NUYS: H. R. 1206, a bill to dispense with unnecessary renewals of oaths of office by civilian employees in the District government, was passed by the House of Representatives on June 21 and referred to the Judiciary Committee of the Senate. This is a similar bill to an act of Congress which was approved August 14, 1937, Public, 284, Seventy-fifth Congress, which the Comptroller General ruled did not apply to the District of Columbia as it covered only Federal departments or independent bureaus. His ruling was based on the District's being a municipality and was not mentioned in this act.

The bill if enacted into law will relieve the District government of a great deal of unnecessary notary work, and as I act, in addition to my other duties, as the notary for the public schools it will very materially reduce the oaths and affidavits which I have to administer.

During the calendar year 1942 I administered 2,200 oaths and 3,344 affidavits. Should H. R. 1206 be passed by the Senate and approved by the President, it would reduce the number of oaths and affidavits which the District notaries have to administer by at least 50 percent.

I communicated with the clerk of your committee today and was advised the bill is far down the calendar but that it could be advanced.

In the latter part of June the Honorable Harry F. Byrd, United States Senator from Virginia, while not a member of the Judiciary Committee wrote me that he would request you as chairman of the committee to report the bill in question, and he has probably communicated with you before this time.

If the bill could be advanced and passed by the Senate I would personally appreciate it very much. This letter is written at the suggestion of the Honorable Schuyler Otis Bland, of Virginia.

Very truly yours,

R. W. HOLT, *Chief Accountant.*

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